

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01421 101241Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, PINR, IZ, YE, YS
SUBJECT: IRAQ AND THE YEMEN: ARAB JURISTS FEDERATION CONDEMNS
ARAB LEAGUE SANCTIONS AGAINST PDRY

1. THE GOI HAS EVIDENTLY BEEN HAVING SOME DIFFICULTY IN
WORKING OUT ITS NEW RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE PDRY. MEDIA
COVERAGE HAS TENDED TO BE BLANTANTLY FACTUAL, AND IRAQ
HAS RECEIVED REPRESENTATIVES FROM BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH
YEMEN. THE YAR ENVOY, ABDULLAH HUMRAN, WAS RECEIVED
BY BOTH BAKR AND HUSSEIN, WHILE THE PDRY REP SAW ONLY THE
LATTER (WHO ACCEPTED A LETTER ON BAKR'S BEHALF).

2. BAGHDAD PRESS OF JULY 9, HOWEVER, REPORTS THAT
IRAQ-BASED FEDERATION OF ARAB JURISTS HAS CONDEMNED ARAB
LEAGUE SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH YEMEN, DESCRIBING THEM AS
A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE ARAB LEAGUE CHARTER AND AN
ACTION WHICH WEAKENS ARAB UNITY WHILE AGGRAVATING THE
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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 01421 101241Z

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH YEMEN. THE
STATEMENT ASKS WHY THE ARAB LEAGUE CONDEMNS THE PDRY WHILE
TAKING NO ACTION CONDEMNING SADAT/BEGIN CONTACTS AND GOES
ON TO CONDEMN ALL FORMS OF POLITICAL ASSASSINATION.

3. COMMENT: THE STATEMENT WAS INSSUED BY THE
SECRETARIAT-GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION OF ARAB JURISTS

HEADED BY SHABIB LAZIM AL-MALIK, PRESENTLY A COUNSELOR TO THE RCC AND FORMERLY GOVERNOR OF KERBALA AND UNDERSECRETARY IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRARIAN REFORM. THE FEDERATION APPEARS TO BE THE VEHICLE CHOSEN TO EXPRESS IRAQ'S DISCOMFORT AND DISSATISFACTION WITH THE ARAB LEAGUE SANCTIONS WHICH THE GOI APPARENTLY PREFERS NOT TO EXPRESS DIRECTLY AT THIS TIME.

4. ALTHOUGH OBSERVERS ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THE GOI IS EXTREMELY CONCERNED OVER THE RECENT EVENTS IN SOUTH YEMEN, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF OTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE GENERAL MIDEAST AREA, THE LEADERSHIP APPEARS TO BE TAKING ITS TIME IN DETERMINING A PUBLIC STANCE. EXPRESSIONS OF DISSATISFACTION WITH THE ARAB LEAGUE'S ACTION, TO WHICH IRAQ WAS NOT A PARTY, MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE INDICATIONS OF WHAT THE FINAL POSITION WILL BE, AND PERMITS A SHOT AT THE CAPITULATIONISTS AND REACTIONARIES WITHOUT COMMITTING IRAQ TO EITHER SIDE OF THE QUESTION.
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